

## OBSERVATIONS BY THE EDITOR

## How Some Country Papers are "Edited."--Letter From Our State University.--Origin of the Tramp.

The newspaper man who is indifferent about what appears in his paper need not worry about ideas (?) for his columns. There are hundreds of press bureaus ever ready to supply all the matter necessary to fill any paper. Every week the Kicker receives enough "copy" from the World's Fair bureau, the Missouri Educational Department and the bureaus of the various political parties to fill up half a dozen papers. But the stuff finds no space in this paper.

Last week I received copy from the Missouri State University boasting up that institution that is always so keen after appropriations when legislatures meet. It starts off about "the genus, homo," and says:

"A comparison of authorities by the University of Missouri shows that the people of the United States pass out annually through their back doors nearly \$10,000,000 worth of old clothes and cold victuals to 46,000 tramps of the country. Surprising as it may seem, ninety per cent of the American hobos are married. 'Driven from home by their wives,' is the comment of one of the Missouri species. Fifty-nine per cent of these Wary Willies have a trade or profession, and could make a decent living had not this irresistible antipathy for work seized them. We Americans generally put ourselves on the back when talking of this part of our population, and talk wisely about the restriction of foreign immigration, but statistics show that over fifty per cent of our tramp population is of American parentage. What makes all our tramps? Statistics tell us that sixty-three per cent of them are made by intoxicating liquors."

So you see it's liquor--according to statistics gathered by the Missouri State University. Liquor produces the tramp. And then liquor produces another thing to which the learned gentlemen of the university do not refer. The liquor traffic produces "REVENUE." This revenue comes chiefly from the poor, and at every session of the legislature the university has a strong lobby at Jefferson City demanding as much of this revenue as can be obtained to be used in the education of the children of the well-to-do.

What a shame, that the chief source of revenue of a government should come from the liquor traffic! Every saloon keeper is an authorized revenue collector for the nation, the state, the county and the municipality.

The Kicker contends that if the sale of liquor is wrong, the paying of a bribe to the nation, the state, the county and the municipality does not make it right--nor even lessen the wrong. If the sale of liquor is right and beneficial to the general welfare, then there is no reason why the traffic should be taxed. To remove the tax would destroy the whiskey trust and brewers' combine, and would lessen--if not wipe out--the saloons. Every farmer could make his own booze.

Not long ago I met a good farmer friend in Kelso, who began talking on the temperance question. "I am for temperance," said he, "but if you go for local option, we'll fight. I don't believe in the government telling me what I shall eat and drink. I believe in personal liberty."

Poor, deluded fellow. He thinks he has "personal liberty" now. It seems never to have occurred to him

that when he pays three dollars for a gallon of best-head whiskey, he is paying fifteen cents for the whiskey and \$2.85 for the PRIVILEGE of drinking it in a so-called free country. If he wants to get a birdseye view of the amount of personal liberty he enjoys, let him undertake to turn a few of his peaches into brandy or some of his corn into whiskey and see how quickly the government will clothe him in stripes.

But, returning to the copy furnished by the learned gentlemen of the university, the article continues:

"Dr. Chas. A. Elwood of the Sociology department of the University of Missouri would put these thirsty fugitives from work and soap on 'reformatory industrial farms where they must refrain from drink, must work and keep clean for an indefinite time.' He thinks they might in this way be made to nearly or quite support themselves, and thus cease to be a burden upon those who toil."

Hooray for Dr. Elwood! Like all other doctors, he knows the remedy. The only trouble is in effecting a cure. This learned doctor has no remedy to suggest that would eliminate the tramp factory, but he wants to put the ready-made article on "reformatory industrial farms where they must abstain from drink." Right here I feel that the following editorial from the St. Louis Chronicle is quite appropriate:

Suppose it were possible for every reader of this to say with all truthfulness while recalling the experiences of life: "I know of one particular agent or thing which has directly killed one person whom I knew."

Suppose every man and woman of this country could say: "I, too, know that the same agent has killed one person in my circle of acquaintances, so that, taking us all in combination, the fatal effects of this agent have been witnessed by 80,000,000 of observers."

What would be done about it? Nothing? Would you refuse to accept such overwhelming evidence and take that deadly agent as a serpent to your bosom?

Is the experience of mankind worth nothing to you?

It is not really necessary to take a hypothetical case merely. Whiskey is the deadly agent and every person in the United States has observed its fatal effects.

Not a man or woman but has known somebody who has been slain by it and many more who have been ruined by it.

Now suppose that each man and woman should say, as he or she with truth might do, "The human being whom I have seen slain had the slaying agent under his absolute control. He need not have touched it unless he had willed to do so, and if he had never willed to touch it he would not have trained himself to feel the want."

But of what avail to you could be such a vast volume of testimony as this?

It could prove no more than you have seen and know yourself. If you are a hard drinker you do not dare to face these truths. Whiskey won't let you. It befuddles your reason and says to you: "Truth is my worst enemy; shut your eyes to it; come to me; you are mine"--and you are.

With the thirst demon controlling you it is nothing to you that in the last ten years whiskey has imposed upon this nation a direct expense of a billion dollars and an indirect expense of a billion more, that it has destroyed 300,000 lives, has sent 100,000 children to the poorhouse, committed at least 150,000 people

to penitentiaries and workhouses, made at least 2,000 suicides, caused the loss by fire or violence of \$10,000,000 worth of property, made 300,000 widows and 1,000,000 orphans--all this is nothing to the slave of drink, because whiskey weakens the manhood to which alone such facts can make appeal.

To the free and independent mind there is powerful force in the fact that among those unhappy persons who fill our asylums for the insane, two out of three were brought there by the direct or indirect effects of this destroyer, that among the paralytics who lie there day after day until inevitable death kindly comes to their release--all of them already in the shroud of a living death--ninety per cent were brought to this condition by the effects of this one destroyer. To the free mind this means much, but to the mind enslaved by drink it means nothing.

Who has not seen despairing women undergoing torture, or listening with sickening hearts and with their scared children hidden away, waiting for the dreaded footsteps of him whose coming ought to be the joy of their lives?

There is just one who does not see the horror of it, and that is the man who goes home drunk.

Could we see all the weeping mothers and devoted fathers hoping against hope for the reformation of their wayward sons, mourning a loss that only the grave can relieve--loyalty, honor, self-respect, affection, duty, honesty, every virtue on which parents find new life in their offspring--what human heart would not bleed in pity?

Well, the heart of the hard drinker is hardened to all. Drink has dried up the wells of his sympathies until the unutterable anguish of those who love him most is nothing to him.

Yes; in every glass of whiskey that you drink the devil says to you: "Keep away from my enemy. Truth: you are mine"--and you do; you are.

Along with its other list of woes, the Chronicle might have added the cruelty to animals that often occurs as a result of overindulgence. What citizen does not know of an instance of a man, otherwise a good citizen, who has ridden a faithful horse to town, lashed him to a post and in some way reached the saloon. In the saloon he meets the hangers-on, who greet him cordially, shake hands, ask him about his affairs and his family and make him feel quite welcome. He takes too much of that which cheers and stays too long. When the saloon closes at night some of his companions help him on the faithful horse that has stood all day in the summer heat or wintry blast without food or water--and he starts off home with a "whoop-la!"

At home his anxious wife and babies wonder what is keeping him so long, and tremble with fear for his safety.

Contrary to former custom, our local statesmen were not billed to speak at any of the Fourth of July celebrations this year. Seems that our "honorable" are not held in as high esteem as they used to be. The wind-jammers seem to have lost their drawing qualities. And anything that won't draw doesn't find room on the program of a present-day Fourth of July celebration.

The celebrations at McMullin, Oran, Commerce and Edna were well attended. While the crowds were large, yet there were very little drunkenness and therefore no disturbances. It was an orderly Fourth with us--as it should be--but nowhere within the borders of the county was the Declaration of Independence read.

GOOD PRINTER WANTED!  
Write, with reference, to  
THE KICKER, BENTON.

## SOUTHEAST NOTES.

As to alfalfa: From the first crop on 10% acres, E. A. M. Webb baled 18% tons, besides furnishing constant feed for five head of horses and mules and twelve head of cattle for six weeks, says the Caruthersville Democrat. But people go on raising five bushels of wheat to the acre because it brings in a little (very little) ready money early in the year, and also because alfalfa is a little hard to start.

During a "Sweet Pea Fair" at Jackson last week a coal oil lamp in front of the stage fell and spread burning oil over the floor, stampeding the audience, and but for a few cool heads there would have been loss of life, which was fortunately thus averted.

A club in Piedmont, organized to beat local option, has come to grief and its treasurer has been fined \$300. It cost \$2 to be a member; you got \$2 worth of drinks and joined again. Some joined twice a day.

"Correspondents must write proper names plainly," says the Dunklin Democrat. But they won't Bro. Caruthers. They assume that you know the name of every man, woman and child in the county.

A man in Cape Girardeau was surprised and indignant on being fined \$50 for carrying a gun he said he had carried for fifty years. The pitcher went to the well once too often.

The strawberry-raspberry hybrid heralded from Dunklin county may lead to the potato-tomato, the parsnip-carrot and the paw-paw-banana. Bring 'em right along.

"Dr. Bear, an alleged traveling physician, sells you a patent medicine and throws in a prescription for booze. He was fined \$100 for this a few days ago.

The Bloomfield Vindicator man iterates and reiterates that he has a mind of his own--forgetting Sam Cook's mortgage on that alleged mind.

Kennett complains of very poor mail facilities. Local papers and letters are 36 hours old when they reach that benighted place.

J. H. Irwin of the Flat River district sustained fatal injuries by falling from a 32 feet scaffolding on the 24th ult.

A fairly satisfactory wheat crop is reported from most points in Southeast Missouri.

Our Illinois neighbor, Thebes, had a 10,000 fire last week.

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS.

Jas. Walker, Sr., has taken hold of the restaurant and Mrs. Ristig has opened hers in her new house. Jas. R. Walker has vacated the Casual House, and drummers and casual visitors are reduced to a diet of crackers and cheese. This is the COUNTRY SEAT, you see.

J. H. Crowder, the well-known local railroad man, died at his home in Cape Girardeau Thursday of last week, and was buried Sunday. His unexpected death is ascribed to an overdose of a nerve-quieting drug.

George Harrison, of Commerce, and the Misses Gertrude and Melissa Wilbourn, of Cairo, drove into Benton Thursday. The young ladies are visiting their cousin, Mrs. Stubblefield.

James R. Morrow of Cary was here Wednesday and claims the finest patch of melons in the county. He says he has them as large as a half-gallon jug.

Children's Day at Cross Plains fourth Sunday in July in grove near the church. Basket dinner. Come and bring a basket.

Licensed to wed: Irwin Hallmark and Gertrude Owens; Caleb Matthews and Amy Steel; Henry A. Davis and Bertie N. Moore.

Uncle Hlood, of the Kicker force, is confined to his room with kidney trouble--and the editor is working overtime.

With a new crew the Scott County Post Hole factory resumed operations Thursday.

At a special term of county court Wednesday a dramshop license was granted to Keesee & Brunsen at Illinois.

B. M. Willis, resident dentist of Commerce, will be in Benton July 11-12-13. Office in bank building.

Stock pea seed for sale by W. C. Lambert, Benton depot.

Bessel, the Oran tinner, was doing work here Thursday.

## FROM COMMERCE.

Misses Mary and Ethel Hurst and Bessie Garrison of Muncie, Ind., are visiting their relatives, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Heuchan.

Quite a number of our people attended Mr. Crowder's funeral at the Cape Sunday.

M. W. Heuchan returned Monday from Keytesville, Mo., where he left his wife sick.

Misses Ethel and Clara Farnes spent the Fourth with the Misses DeWint. Mrs. Gaines and her sister, Miss Clara Bate, left us Tuesday morning.

Miss Fannie Spann of Blodgett is the guest of Mrs. Albert Ellis.

The Commerce barbecue was a success and drew a big crowd.

Blodgett furnished quite a contingent to the crowd Monday.

The Thebes band furnished good music for the barbecue.

Morrill DeHagen of Benton visited relatives here this week.

Miss Edith Cannon is visiting Miss Nellie Stone.

Benton was well represented at our barbecue.

Cy. Harrison is visiting homefolks.

## FROM NEW HAMBURG

Perryville Sun: Miss Florence Brewer left for New Hamburg, Scott county, where she accepted a position as dressmaker with Schenck & Co., who are conducting a general store at that place. Miss Brewer is one of Perryville's highly respected ladies and the Sun wishes her success.

Our village board has passed a hog law ordinance prohibiting hogs from running on the streets. We now have authority to restrain the real hog as well as the man who acts the hog.

Mrs. George White, who died here at the home of her sister, Mrs. J. P. Westrich, was buried here Thursday. Rev. Helmbacker, of Oran, conducted the services.

Revs. Moening and Helmbacker attended the Silver jubilee of Father Prunette celebrated at the Cape Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Glueck, of Kelso, spent Tuesday here with Mother Scherer.

The young folks enjoyed a social at Chas. Grojan's Sunday.

Peter Schwan and John Wilhelm were at Kelso Tuesday.

Miss Marie Logrand is home from St. Louis on a visit.

## FROM KELSO.

Charley, Mike and Miss Frances Diebold and Miss Lena Hamm, of Kelso, and Peter, Louis and Miss Mary Diebold, of Benton, spent Sunday with the family of Theo. Resell, in Sandy woods.

Postmaster Dunsenmiller, like the artesian well people at Benton, has an elephant on his hands. Two months ago he resigned. Nobody applies.

For RENT: My farm two miles northwest of New Hamburg, containing 120 acres of good arable land. For further information see or write Joe Mier, New Hamburg. 31-21

Herman Lauck, who is here from St. Louis on a visit, invested in two lots at Ansel.

Men and teams wanted at Felton's quarry, Rockview, Mo. P. O. For further particulars enquire at the works. 31-17

During the absence of Father Klein, Father Vogt, of Desoto, is here.

James Bethel and John Auer are in Arkansas looking at land.

The dance at Joe Hahn's Monday night was a pleasant affair.

Fred Logel is papering and painting Mrs. M. Dume's house.

A child of Mr. and Mrs. A. Foster was baptised Monday.

Tony Baudendistel was in Dexter this week.

Mrs. P. R. Williams was here Tuesday.

## FROM EDNA.

Geo. Oster was buried at Brier Patch cemetery Wednesday afternoon. He died suddenly of heart trouble at his home near Bloem. He formerly lived in this neighborhood, and had many friends.

Among those who have lately purchased lots at Mrs. Mary E. Hendricks, M. E. House, New Upton, O. E. Cheek, A. Hall, W. J. Patton, Ed White and E. B. Williams.

Foreman Dean and crew are here laying a track to the roundhouse site so material can be placed and building begun.

Henry Musbach and Miss Amelia Hillebrand were married at the home of the bride here Sunday by Rev. Alf. Encher.

Henry Sprenger, who has been attending school at Concordia, is home for the summer vacation.

Ziegler & Turner is now the name of the butcher firm, T. J. Turner having joined Mr. Ziegler.

For Sale: A good reliable horse at a reasonable price. Apply to Hy. Schmette.

The picnic on the Fourth was well attended, quite a success and much enjoyed.

Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Krieger entertained a number of friends Sunday.

John Rubel now occupies his new house on Mary street.

We are much in need of a lumber yard here.

## FROM ORAN.

J. O. Hess is back from the big fair where he met his mother brother and sister he had not seen in twenty three years. Mr. Hess is the inventor of a device called the mechanic's companion and has just filed an order for far away Cape Colony.

Base Ball:--Oran defeated Friccoe at the Cape Sunday--22 to 3. Monday our fourth team beat Morley's fourth--15 to 4. Same day our third was beat by Sikeston's third--19-18.

Basket dinner, preaching, special music, etc., by the two Oran and the Bryans Sunday schools on the 17th inst. Come with full baskets.

Married at Sikeston on Sunday the 2d, Caleb Matthews and Miss Amy Steel. The best wishes of a host of friends are theirs.

James Hamilton has returned from Oklahoma. He is acting marshal during the absence of Mr. Dorneyer.

A children's choir has been organized at the Baptist church, in which there are some good voices.

Armed Blanche Finley, Jennie Clemens, Ella Tomlinson, Mrs. Earl Miller started for the Fair Friday.

Ed. Miller, the dairyman, makes regular trips to town to supply people with milk and butter.

Rev. Couch of St. Louis preached an appreciated sermon at the Baptist church Monday night.

Dr. Pressnell has bought the building and stock of Uncle Geo. Metz and has moved his office therein.

Monday one of Bryans' team ran away and overturned the buggy, but no one was hurt.

Miss Beulah Tuck has returned to her home at Holcomb after a short visit here.

Mrs. Young and daughter of the Cape visited Mrs. Chas. Kenney.

Mrs. Maddox is home from St. Louis and recovering slowly.

Several boys were arrested for using fireworks on the Fourth.

A very large crowd attended the picnic here on the Fourth.

M. B. Schluter of St. Louis visited friends here en route home.

Miss Minnie Wetteroth, of St. Louis, is visiting here.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Huffer were here at the picnic.

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Phelps were at Morley Tuesday.

Miss Estelle Quarry spent the 4th at home.

## FROM VANDUSER.

A. H. Phillips and Miss Lavin Vanduser, who shipped off and got married at Cairo last week, are home again. Their many friends extend best wishes.

Mrs. Geo. Layton, accompanied by Mrs. W. H. Cranick, visited her husband at the Cape Sunday.

L. P. Woodward has moved his home to Parma for logging purposes. See cream supper at both school houses Saturday evening, come.

Mrs. Boyett, of Crowder, visited her daughter here last week.

J. R. Wallace came down from the Cape on a visit.

## FROM McMULLIN.

Three-shers are heard in every direction. Reports say wheat in Sandy Prairie is exceeding expectations, while the long-strawed wheat near the lakes is falling for short.

The Fourth was appropriately celebrated here. Claude Finley was the lucky boy in the foot race and won the pair of shoes.

A boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hill Tuesday.

Dick Finley, of near Benton, was here Saturday.

Teeth Extracted Without Pain.

By Dr. A. L. Bryce and wife, who will visit Benton July 12, 13 and 14. We are prepared to do all branches of dentistry in all the latest methods such as crown and bridge work, plates and all kinds of fillings. Any one wishing work done will please call at hotel on above dates.

Dr. A. L. Bryce.

## FROM DIEHLSTADT.

Mrs. Washington Williams is under the care of Dr. Bondurant at Cairo, and is rapidly improving.

Miss Addie Absher entertained Misses Hamlin and Orr and Arthur Miller Sunday.

Jeff Stokes and John Black "mised" last week and skinned each other up somewhat.

Dad Fray has a girl working for so as to induce the boys to buy soda and candy.

Johnnie Hiney, late of Oran, has returned to his old home in this vicinity.

Lon Jenkins has got his thresher--one of the whistle variety. Hear her toot!

A Tennessee revivalist is holding meetings at the Russell church.

Max Ostner has loaded nine big loads of wheat here this week.

Service at both churches last Sunday, but poor attendance.

A number of our folks attended the Oran picnic Monday.

No Fourth of July here--otherwise than on the calendar.

Geo. Absher was badly bitten by Mrs. Welch's dog.

Miss Cora Smith is visiting friends in Blodgett.

Miss Irene McGinnis spent Sunday in Charleston.

Mr. Malone's child died last week. Will English is on the sick list.

## FROM HICKORY GROVE.

The Floating Silk Society will give an ice cream supper in the near future. Will tell you more after next meeting.

Several Sundayed at George C. Enage's. Jas. Morrow and family did so near Morley.

Only one applicant for our school so far. Teachers are not numerous, it would seem.

Quite a number of us took in the Oran picnic Monday.

Wheat here averages twelve bushels to the acre.

We have melons as big as a half gallon jug.

## FROM SAVANAH.

A revival meeting is in progress. J. F. Chappel and family visited at Louis Huff's Sunday, and W. C. Darby and family at Unity.

C. W. Dozier and family visited in Richwoods this week. Grandma Darby accompanied them.

Farmers are pretty busy just now and the weather warming up.

Rev. Atwood will preach here on the 7th and 10th.

## Worlds Fair from Morley.

Round trip, good for fifteen days limit, \$5.70. Round trip, good for 30 days limit, \$6.35. Round trip, good for the season, \$7.90. Special coach excursions July 11, 18 and 25. Fare from Morley, round trip, \$4.75; children, \$2.40. Return limit, 7 days from date of sale. Trains leave Morley at 11:55 a.m. Arrive at St. Louis 7:15 p.m. No change. Take the I. M. route--the pioneer road into St. Louis from Southeast Missouri.

## To Contractors.

Bids wanted for repairing township schoolhouse, district 3-20-14. To be repainted outside, size 26x36, 12 foot walk. House to be leveled up, windows fixed and one new door shutter made. Bids to be filed with J. W. Bate, Cary, up to July 20. Work to be finished by Aug. 10, 1904. Right reserved to reject any or all bids. T. N. FATE, Dist. clerk. 33-25

STRAYED: From my place near Blodgett, two iron-gray horses; one about seven years old, about 15 1/2 hands high, branded with letter "A" on left shoulder, plowman road, in left hind ankle; nose cut off between the ears, and where collar marks. The other is smaller and a little darker, about 14 1/2 hands high, 4 or 5 years old and branded on left thigh with letter "H" and figure "22". Any information leading to their recovery will be liberally rewarded by Dr. Jacob Sparks, Blodgett, Mo.

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We are Showing a Nice Line of Dry Goods, Groceries, Notions, Shoes, Boots, Patent Medicines, Glass- China- Queens- and Hardware.

**We are Not Closing Out**  
But just giving the people  
**BARGAINS Every Day!**  
Don't take our word for it,  
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